Abstract

A method for reducing echo signals in telecommunications systems for the transmission of wanted acoustic signals, particularly human speech, in which the presence of echo signals is detected and/or predicted and the detected and/or predicted echo signals are subsequently suppressed or reduced is characterized in that the power value of the noise level N in the currently used telecommunications channel is continuously measured and/or estimated, and that the degree of reduction of the echo signals to be currently effected is set continuously and automatically, in dependence on the current noise level N, according to a predefined function h(N). Reduction of the echo signals can be thereby effected, inexpensively and with simplest means, so as to produce an overall acoustic perception of the transmitted telecommunications signal which sounds as comfortable as possible to the human ear, avoiding the disadvantage, compared with the prior art, that in the case of relatively loud, clearly audible noise and simultaneously large reduction of echo into the background noise due to the echo suppression, the occurrence of transient echo peaks causes "holes" to be "punched" into the otherwise uniform background noise, resulting in what is perceived, in the case of the known methods, as a disagreeable modulation of the transmitted telecommunications signal in the speech pauses.